UNITED
NATIONS

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Economic and Social Council

Distr.
LIMITED

E/CONF.91/L.56
8 December 1997

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

SEVENTH UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE
ON THE STANDARDIZATION OF
GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES
New York, 13-22 January 1998
Item 16 of the provisional agenda*

EXONYMS: PROVISIONAL LISTS OF EXONYMS

Polish Geographical Names of the World

Paper submitted by Poland**

* E/CONF.91/1.

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97-38091 (E) 020198 060198

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The publication entitled Polish Geographical Names of the World was prepared by the Commission for the Standardization of Geographical Names Outside Poland, affiliated with the Ministry of National Education, and published by the State Geodetic and Cartographic Service between 1994 and 1996. It consists of the following four parts:

I. Europe (excluding Eastern Europe);

II. Eastern Europe and Asia;

III. Africa, North America, South America, Australia and Oceania, and Antarctica;

IV. Oceans and seas.

In parts I-III, the entries (oikonyms) have been arranged in alphabetical order, first by country, and then subdivided by local administrative regions, which, in turn, contain subsections of hydronyms (sea waters, inland waters), oronyms and selected special names. Where an abbreviated name occurs, the alphabetization is according to the Polish version of the abbreviation, which is shown first, followed by the abbreviation in the local language, which is followed by the full Polish name and full local language name. Each part includes an alphabetical index of all Polish names, with abbreviated information on the type of object; oronyms and hydronyms are also given, with the name (or names) of the country in abbreviation. The equivalent names in the local language are also provided; if there are several local languages or ambiguities, the language is specified in an abbreviated form.

To give historical tradition its due, Polish geographical names are also included for areas of neighbouring countries populated by large Polish minorities: in Part I - Czech Silesia near Cieszyn and northern Slovakia; in Part II - Wilno and Soleczniki district (Lithuania) and Grodno district (Belarus). In Part I, in recognition of the achievements of Polish explorers in the area of the Svalbard Archipelago, Polish place names accepted by Norwegian authorities are shown.

Part II contains the rules for transliteration to the Latin alphabet from other alphabets. Part IV comprises names of oceans and their parts, as well as names of physiographic features of the sea floor, for four oceans: the Atlantic, Arctic, Indian and Pacific Oceans. Section 5 contains Polish names of sea currents. Geographic division of oceans and seas follows the recommendations of the International Hydrographic Bureau in Monaco. As the English language is commonly used in the world for names of seas and oceans, these are given alongside the Polish names. In some cases, the names of seas are also given in other languages used in the region.